CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 29 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEXICO CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit the attached press release issued by the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Mexico concerning the conduct of underground nuclear-weapon tests by the Government of Pakistan.

The Permanent Mission of Mexico would be grateful if the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament would take the necessary steps to distribute this text as a Conference document.

Secretariat for Foreign Affairs Press release

Tlatelolco, 28 May 1998

B-216

The Government of Mexico condemns and deplores the nuclear-weapon tests carried out today by the Government of Pakistan, and expresses its most serious concern at the initiation of a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

The carrying out of nuclear-weapon tests undermines and jeopardizes the international non-proliferation regime governing these weapons, which is indispensable to peace and world security, since the risk that they may come to be used increases in direct proportion to their spread, their build-up and their technological improvement. In turn, the use of nuclear weapons must be avoided at all costs, not only because of the indiscriminate, permanent and catastrophic damage they would cause, but because they could lead to the involvement of other nuclear-weapon States in an escalation which could endanger the very survival of mankind.

An effective non-proliferation regime for nuclear weapons must necessarily lead to nuclear disarmament. But the attainment of a nuclear-weapon-free world is impossible in a context of proliferation of such weapons in any of its aspects.

Mexico calls on India and Pakistan to immediately halt their nuclear-weapon tests and the development and accumulation of delivery vehicles, which exacerbate tension in their region, reduce security at the international level and hamper efforts designed to lessen the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Mexico also appeals to all States to put an immediate halt to the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, and to begin urgent negotiations on an unequivocal and binding commitment to the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons through a broad and phased programme for the gradual and progressive reduction of nuclear stockpiles and delivery systems leading to their complete and final elimination in specific stages.